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Hold in Gray Report file

19 March 1952

Mr. James S. Lay, Jr., Executive Secretary
National Security Council
Room 300 - Executive Offices Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Jimmy:

Attached is the suggested letter to Mr. Gordon Gray. Please send it on in the pouch to Bob Dennison for him to show to the President after he and Joe Short have worked it over.

The sentence marked with a question mark was taken exception to to some extent by some of the people in the State Department who doubted whether it was desirable to make any reference to a public statement of any kind. I think this is a little super-caution.

I have just learned that State Department has their own suggested draft. I have not held this up, but if you want to see what they think, the letter should be obtained from Chip Bohlen.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bedell

Walter B. Smith
Director

Enclosure

Draft dtd 18 Mar 52 (orig & 1 cc)

WBSmith/dr

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee
2 - Signer
1 - DD/P

DRAFT 18 March 1952

The Honorable Gordon Gray
President
The Consolidated University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

~~My~~ dear ~~Mr. Gray:~~ Gordon:

I am writing you personally to acknowledge your letter of 22 February 1952 and to thank you for your report on the organization and work of the Psychological Strategy Board.

It is gratifying to learn from your letter that the Board has made real progress toward the development of a concerted, successful psychological effort within the Government through the cooperation of the Board members and the Government agencies concerned.

Your report will be most useful to me and to the Board. The Board members and others who have given it detailed study are impressed by it, and I am giving careful consideration to the specific recommendations you have made.

After very careful thought, I have concluded that it would be inadvisable to publish the report, itself, at this time because of some of the sensitive material involved. However, I think that an early occasion may be found for my making a statement which will use the most significant ^{parts of} ~~themes in~~ the report. It may well become timely in the present world situation to restate and clarify the underlying principles, the scope and vigorous nature of our psychological effort and the task ahead as you describe it.

I must take this opportunity again to express my sincere thanks for what you have done in the organization of the Board and in leading its development and early work. I know that you are continuing as a part-time consultant to the Board and its Director and I also want to feel free to call upon you on matters relating to our strategic programs.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Harry S. Truman

RLD/KN

Address was at the bottom